

# Habitat Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** North Hills Thinning

**Proposal Number:** 1190

**DWR Region:** Southern Region

**Lead Agency:** DWR

**County:** Iron

**Project Manager:** Nile Sorenson

**PM Phone:** 4355862429

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 09/01/2008

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**Project Location:** North Hills area near Hamilton Fort

**Project Description:** 150 acres of PJ removal and seeding, Install new water facility and trough.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Mule deer habitat within the project area is extremely important, particularly during the winter. Surrounding habitat is being developed for housing which makes this parcel more important as deer winter range. Pinyon-juniper trees are also invading important sagebrush areas. Some of the area is being invaded by cheatgrass. According to the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide for Mule Deer, the area does not meet quality criteria. In addition, the NRCS range evaluation for the area shows a small number of forbs available in the community. The planned treatment and range planting should provide more forbs and an increased diversity in the community. There is also a need to establish more ground cover to reduce erosion and improve soil stability.

**Objectives:** What will be accomplished by the project (Should be measurable):1. Reduce pinyon-juniper cover by removing trees2. Increase soil stability by planting and removing the competitive PJ3. Increase plant diversity through planting of several species4. Increase overall composition of forbs in the plant community5. Provide a year-round water source for wildlife

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This project targets shrubsteppe habitat, which is identified in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as a key habitat type of greatest conservation need (pg. 7-2). The CWCS also identifies Mule Deer as one of the wildlife species of greatest conservation need as a Tier III species (page 5-7). The project also meets the objectives of the NRCS Strategic Plan 2005-2010.

**Potential Risks:**

**Proposed Methods:** The project is planned to begin in fall 2008. NRCS guidelines require that some part of the project be completed in the first year. If matching funds are found, the entire project may be completed in 2008. However, the contract with NRCS will allow about five years to fully complete the project. It is proposed that 150 acres of pinyon and juniper trees be removed, preferably with some kind of mastication equipment such as a Bull Hog. Treatment is planned for three areas. All treated areas will be seeded with a mixture of forbs, grasses, and browse species suitable to the area. An existing water line will provide a source for the proposed watering facility that will be constructed near the line. The proposed trough will have a capacity of 800 gallons and will have wildlife escape ramps installed.

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**Shapefile Name:** S:\DWR\HPD 2009\GIS Shape Files\proposal 1190

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Details:** Monitoring will be carried out by NRCS and UDWR biologists. Photos will be taken before and after to monitor general changes in vegetation. No permanent vegetative transects are planned

**Cons. Outreach Details:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Small Mammals

Neotropical Birds

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## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Tribal	415
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
EQIP	\$27,406.00		\$27,406.00
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$27,000.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$54,406.00</b>		<b>\$27,406.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Bull Hog 150 acres	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00
Materials and Supplies	Water trough and installation	\$0.00	\$481.00
	Seed Cost	\$4,500.00	\$3,675.00
	Other - Upland Habitat Management	\$0.00	\$750.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,406.00</b>

## Project Map:



